



Guelph Engineering Society



Report on ESSCO AGM at the University of Toronto,

June 21-24, 2007

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1. Purpose of Conference

The main purpose of this conference was the annual general meeting for the Engineering Student Societies Council of Ontario, although there were information sessions to attend as well.

2. Personal Goals for Conference

The main goal I had for this conference was to receive more information and details on academic events and the VP Academic positions themselves from other schools, in order to give me some new ideas for my position in the fall. Also, I was hoping to here the results from the recent LIAC survey on Professor Evaluations, to put forward some motions for constitutional tidying up (which had been already taken care of, so was no longer necessary) and to have a fantastic time.

3. Summary of Events

ESSCO 201 and CFES 102

- Presentations were made by the ESSCO Exec, and the CFES Ontario Ambassador on the form and function of the two organizations.
- The information presented was that which I had seen before at previous conferences and at presentations made during EngSoc meetings, but is a good way to give a introductory overview for those who had not seen or experienced the organizations before.

Session 1 - Lobbying, Issues & Action Committee (LIAC)

- This was one of the main sessions I was looking forward to attending, as the past survey on prof. evals. Was something I was hoping to utilize in the coming year.
- The discussion started with the improvements that had been made over prior years lack of anything being done. The report was previewed, although not yet finished. Steve Quinlan (VP S&D) said he would continue working on it after his mandated term was over. It was also mentioned that LIAC liaisons should be tagged to VP Academic portfolios.
- The hopes of taking this report to CODE (Council of Ontario Deans of Engineering) had been pretty much quashed, and it seemed a lot

of individuals felt the report was not going to be useful. I strongly disagreed with that, and still feel that having this report will be a very useful tool for change.

- Finally, there was a discussion on possible topics for the coming year. A lot of interesting topics were brought up, but nothing was decided on, and it was left to the committee to determine.

Session 2 - Academic Events: Good and Bad

- The VP Ex's from Windsor (Grant) and Ryerson (Dave) presented the other topic I was looking forward to. Discussing the challenges their schools faced in various Academic events.
- Lack of interest, or better yet, student apathy, seems to be a major issue across most member schools. Even with events voted on by the students at large.
- Several good ideas were discussed, including a couple I found very interesting; a dinner with industry reps (a ramped up wine and cheese) and morale nights, held after midterms for upper years to share horror and success stories with the lower years.
- A lot of the discussion was similar to the VP Academic teleconference that was held in the past winter semester, but the discussion brought out new twists and ideas that I hope to pursue this year.

OSPE

- Annette Bergerone, a representative from OSPE, made a presentation on what OSPE stood for, and what it does for us, how it represents engineers and the differences between it and PEO.

Session 3 - National Engineering Week (NEW)

- Once again, Steve Q. ran this session, discussing NEW events and how ESSCO can help out us. A representative from OSPE was also in attendance.
- A lot of the discussion focused on what Ryerson does (a whole week of events) with some addition info from Western and Carleton. The events were excellent ideas, but unfortunately require funding and a volunteer base that is a little (or a lot) out of our reach.
- Speaking of funding, you can apply for it from OSPE at www.engineeringweek.on.ca but you must apply by November 10th-ish, and yes, NEW occurs in March.

PEO Speaker

- Student Liaison, Manoj Choudary from the PEO gave a presentation similar to Annette's on the PEO.

ESSCO Accountability

- Each outgoing executive (with exception of VP Finance, who was ill) made their presentation of what they achieved and didn't achieve this year, then left the room for the discussion and vote of confidence.
- All votes of confidence passed.

Elections

- Elections for the 4 executive positions were held and the positions were filled as follows:
 President – Ruth Anne Vanderwater, Waterloo
 Vice President Services and Development – Justin Kaufman, Ryerson (Filled at plenary next day)
 Vice President Communication – Dan Taylor, Waterloo
 Vice President Finance – Mike Orr, McMaster

Session 4 – Reaching Out

- Steve Q ran this session as well, where the outreach initiatives of the past year were discussed and new ideas and initiatives were talked about.
- WIE (Women in Engineering) was a main focus of the discussion, with ideas on how to help the groups at member schools through ESSCO. Teleconferences were suggested.

Session 5 – Communication, Vision and Action

- Ran by the ever talented Phil Geddis, to discuss the focus and mandate for the new executive.
- Outlined ideas, many which were seen in plenary in motion form the next day.

4. Evaluation

i) Conference Organizers

I felt this conference was very well run and organized. They did a good job of keeping things on time and provided interesting social activities. The food was decent, the rooms, residence sized, but I imagine it helped keep the cost down.

ii) Delegate

I felt my performance at the conference was suitable and I achieved all of my goals except for putting forth a motion, of which there were plenty, so more were not needed anyhow. I also got myself nominated and a position on the LIAC committee, on which I hope to represent Guelph well, and bring something of value to the table. The experience was a good one, and I hope to use it to improve my role on EngSoc. If I were to attend another conference, I would try and write down more names, so as to remember contacts made more clearly than I currently do.